

# awnings

Awnings are canopies made of canvas, metal and other materials and are used to shelter people, merchandise and the display windows. They are typically installed above storefronts, doors and/or windows. Awnings should fit within the overall storefront and building's organization. Ideally, they should fit within or just over window openings. Awnings are particularly useful in shielding south facing storefronts, out-

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door seating areas, and entrances from heavy sunlight exposure. Awnings used on north facing facades are not the best use of funds given the negligible amount of northern sunlight exposure. As with signs, excessive use of awnings can significantly reduce the appeal and diversity of storefronts in a building or a business district. Other methods for

achieving sunlight control and weather protection, such as blinds or shades, should be explored. This helps to increase visual diversity within a block and/or business district.

Awnings can be used to effectively enhance a storefront by adding color, pattern and texture. As with all storefront elements, particular attention should be

given to maintaining the awning and information it displays.

Awnings should not be used to conceal bad building conditions, i.e. water damage, broken windows, etc. which should be corrected.

## ENCOURAGED

- Installing canvas or metal awnings.
- Using individual awnings for individual storefronts in a building so that the building's structural frame, detail and rhythm are readable. This also helps to define the extent of an individual store and to establish better business identity.
- Installing retractable or fixed type awnings.
- Illuminating storefronts and sidewalks from beneath an awning.
- Using a consistent size, profile and location for awnings on a single building with multiple storefronts. Font styles may vary from business to business.
- Designing creative awning shapes that are complementary to the overall building.
- Locating signage on the valance of the awning. Signage Code requires that letters be no more than 12" tall.

## STRONGLY DISCOURAGED

- Backlighting or internally illuminating plastic awnings.
- Applying large signage on the sloped portion of an awning.
- Concealing architectural details including transoms and storefront cornices with awnings or other elements.
- Using a material other than canvas or metal, including vinyl.

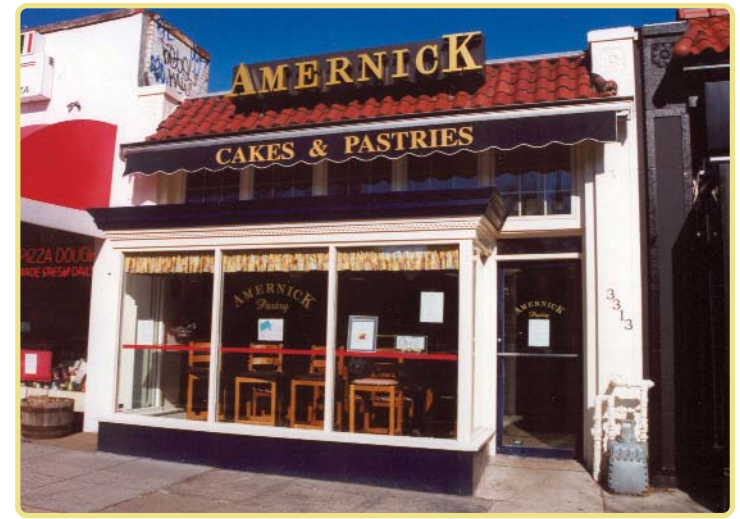
# types of awnings



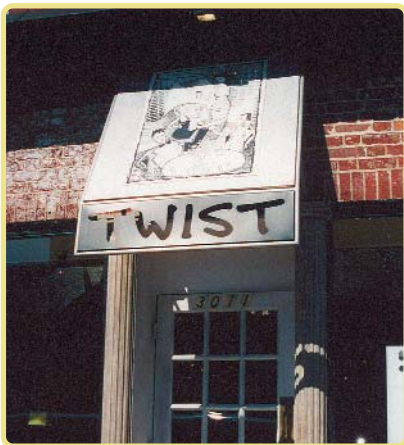
OPEN-ENDED STATIONARY AWNING WITH VALANCE FOR BUSINESS NAME  
MENDOCINO GRILL (GEORGETOWN)



CLOSED-ENDED STATIONARY AWNING  
CHARLIE'S BAR & GRILL (SHEPHERD PARK)



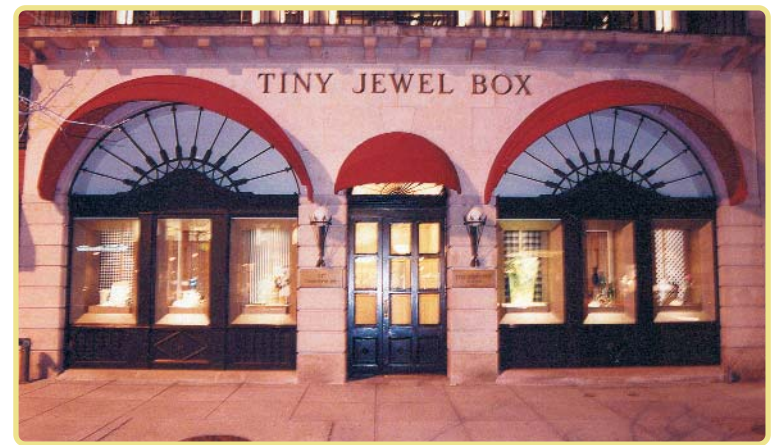
RETRACTABLE FABRIC AWNING WITH VALANCE FOR BUSINESS NAME OR OTHER BUSINESS INFORMATION  
AMERNICK CAKES & PASTRIES (CLEVELAND PARK)



EXPRESSIONIST METAL AWNING WITH BUSINESS NAME CUT OUT  
TWIST (GEORGETOWN)



OPEN-ENDED STATIONARY AWNING WITHOUT VALANCE  
CLUB MONACO (GEORGETOWN)



AWNINGS THAT FIT INTO OR THAT ACCENTUATE ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL  
TINY JEWEL BOX (CONNECTICUT AVENUE)